

## CREATE A FAMILY-DISASTER PLAN

When a disaster strikes, there may not be much time to act. Preparing now for an emergency will give you and your family time to react safely and in a well thought-out manner. A plan of action for you and your family can go a long way toward reducing potential suffering from any type of disaster that could strike. A few tips to preparing a family-disaster plan include:

- Plans should be kept simple. The best emergency plans are those that are easy to remember.
- If you must evacuate your home, it is always best to take your pets with you.
- Be familiar with escape routes in case you need to evacuate your neighborhood. Plan several escape routes for different situations. Find the safe spots in your home for each type of disaster. Instruct household members to turn on the radio or television for emergency information.
- Select one calling point, possibly a friend or relative, where family members can contact, if they are separated from the rest of the family.
- Learn and post emergency phone numbers and information.
- Take a basic first aid and CPR class.
- Stock a disaster-supply kit.
- Plan for your pets.

## STOCK A DISASTER-SUPPLY KIT

When a disaster strikes, it may not leave your family much time to prepare. After a disaster, local emergency officials and relief workers will be on the scene, but they will not be able to reach everyone immediately. It could take hours or even days before help can get to your neighborhood. Preparing a disaster supply kit will help your family better cope with the situation. Some necessary items in every disaster supply kit include:

- One gallon of water per person for five days
- Enough non-perishable food for the household for at least five days
- A non-electric can opener; cooking tools and fuel; paper plates & towels; and plastic utensils & cups
- Toiletries, such as toothpaste and brush; deodorant and soap; shaving equipment; personal hygiene supplies; shampoo; wash cloth and towel; and toilet paper
- Garbage bags, resealable plastic bags and tarps
- Supplies for infants, including diapers and formula
- Supplies for senior citizens, including special dietary considerations and incontinence pads
- At least a two-week supply of prescribed family medicines, as well as a typical first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, headache medicine and antacids
- Blankets, pillows, extra clothing
- Battery-powered NOAA weather radio, HDTV and flashlight; and extra batteries
- A waterproof container with extra cash and important documents, such as insurance, bank account and Social Security cards
- A list of important phone numbers including the family's local pharmacy, doctors and designated contacts the family can call in case of an emergency
- Camera to record damage to property
- Rain gear and hard sole shoes
- Cleaning supplies and equipment
- Pet supplies including food water and medicines

# LEARNING ABOUT WILDFIRES

352-343-9420



LAKE COUNTY  
FLORIDA

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
425 W. Alfred St., Tavares, Florida 32778-7800

Phone: 352-343-9420

Fax: 352-343-9728

Email: [disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:disasterready@lakecountyfl.gov) or  
[alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov](mailto:alertlake@lakecountyfl.gov)

Web: [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword: emergency

## BEFORE A WILDFIRE

- Mark the entrance to your property with address signs that are clearly visible from the road.
- Keep lawns trimmed, leaves raked and the roof and gutters free from debris.
- Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your home.
- Store flammable materials, liquids and solvents in metal containers outside your home and at least 30 feet away from structures and wooden fences.
- Create a defensible space by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet around your home. Beyond 30 feet, remove dead wood, debris and low tree branches.
- Landscape your property with fire-resistant plants and vegetation to prevent fire from spreading quickly. For example, hardwood trees are more fire-resistant than pine, eucalyptus or fir trees.
- Make sure water resources, such as hydrants, ponds, swimming pools and wells, are accessible to firefighters.
- Use fire-resistant, protective roofing and materials, such as stone, brick and metal to protect your home. Avoid using wood materials as it offers the least protection.
- Cover all exterior vents, attics and eaves with metal mesh screens no larger than ¼-inch thick to prevent debris from collecting and to help keep sparks out.
- Install multi-pane windows, tempered safety glass or fireproof shutters to protect large windows from radiant heat.
- Use fire-resistant draperies for added window protection.
- Have chimneys, wood stoves and all home-heating systems inspected and cleaned annually by a certified specialist.
- Insulate chimneys and place spark arresters on top. Install insulation between the chimney and the roof, attic or other flammable materials it might touch. The chimney should be at least 3 feet above the roof.
- Remove branches hanging above and around the house.
- When adequately prepared, a house can withstand a wildfire without the intervention of the fire service. The Firewise Communities/USA recognition program enables communities to achieve a high level of protection against fire as well as sustainable ecosystem balance. For more information, log on to [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org).

## FOLLOW LOCAL BURNING LAWS

- Before burning debris in a wooded area, make sure to notify local authorities and obtain a burning permit.
- Use an approved incinerator with a safety lid or covering with holes no larger than ¾-inch.
- Have a fire extinguisher or garden hose on hand when burning debris.

## DURING A WILDFIRE

- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately. Take your disaster-supply kit and choose a route away from the fire hazard.

### If there is time:

- Shut off the gas at the meter. Only a qualified professional can safely turn the gas back on.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Connect garden hose to outside taps. Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near aboveground fuel tanks. Wet the roof.
- Wet or remove shrubs within 15 feet of your residence.
- Gather fire tools such as a rake, axe, handsaw or chainsaw, bucket and shovel.
- Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave the key in the ignition and the car doors unlocked. Close garage windows and doors, but leave them unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.
- Close fireplace screens.
- Close windows, vents, doors, blinds or noncombustible window coverings and heavy drapes. Remove flammable drapes and curtains.
- Move flammable furniture into the center of the residence away from the windows and sliding-glass doors.
- Close all interior doors and windows to prevent drafts.
- Place valuables that will not be damaged by water in a pool or pond.
- Watch for changes in the speed and direction of the fire and smoke.

## WEATHER RADIOS SAVE LIVES



Thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, bomb scares, chemical spills and wildfires. These are just a few of the potential hazards in Lake County.

Having a battery operated, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio in your home is like having your own personal tornado siren – only it will alert you of all these impending dangers. In every home, a weather radio should be as common as a smoke detector.

A weather radio broadcasts National Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other non-weather related hazard information 24 hours a day. During an emergency, the weather service forecasters interrupt routine broadcasts and send a special tone activating local weather radios. Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature sound an alert to give you immediate information about a life-threatening situation.

### Local SAME\* code

County	SAME Code
Lake	012069
Marion	012083
Orange	012095
Osceola	012097

*\*Specific Area Message Encoding*

County	SAME Code
Polk	012105
Seminole	012117
Sumter	012119
Volusia	012127

### Local Frequencies

Transmitter	Channel	VHF Frequency
Daytona Beach	channel 1	162.400
Orlando	channel 4	162.475
Sumterville	channel 5	162.500



AlertLake is Lake County's public safety warning system capable of warning Lake County residents of an immediate emergency, such

as a missing person, hazardous materials spill, law enforcement advisories and wildfire and tornado warnings issued by the National Weather Service. Alerts can be sent to your home, cellular and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones as well as email accounts.

Current landline telephone users (listed and unlisted) are already registered. Residents can register multiple cellular phone numbers and email addresses. To register for AlertLake, log on to [www.lakecountyfl.gov](http://www.lakecountyfl.gov), keyword search "AlertLake."